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## **STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF WINTER MEETING January 29, 2020**

Conducted at  
State Bar of Michigan Offices  
306 Townsend Street  
Lansing, Michigan

James Enright called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Council members and officers present in person: James P. Enright (Chair), Susan J. Sadler (Secretary/Treasurer), Allison M. Collins, Benjamin Lee Fruchey, Tammy Helminski, Mary Ann Parks

Council members and officers present by phone: Lydia Barbash-Riley, Ross A. Hammersley, Kellie Marie Martorano, Joni Lynn Roach, Todd C. Schebor

A quorum of council members was present (six is required)

Section Administrator: Mary Anne Parks was present.

1. Approval of November 19, 2019 meeting minutes:

Tammy Helminski moved to approve the Minutes; Allison Collins second; Motion was approved.

2. Chair's reports:

- a. Membership: James Enright reported that an additional 38 members had joined the Section. Dues are up by \$1,200 over the same time period as last year.
- b. Publications – The Council discussed the issue of contributing to the State Bar's June 2022 issue of the Journal to "Water Law" issue and whether there is interest in contributing three to four articles to that issue. Overtures will be made to the Agricultural Section to see whether they would like to join that effort. Amanda Collins will contact the Agricultural Section to discuss their interest.
- c. SBM Connect – Attendees discussed what is available on the data base. The data base needs to be updated to reflect job address changes. It was reported that a video

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produced in 2006 will be uploaded which contains an interview with Gov. Milliken. It discusses the Governor's environmental policies at that time in the 1980's.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Sadler reported that there is a need to submit for reimbursement various expenses incurred by counsel member.

4. Administrator's Report (Parks):

Parks reported that she has been helping with the Air event scheduled this Spring. She will make an effort to reach out to new members and welcome them to the Section. She discussed the 12-week in advance notice, which must be submitted to the State Bar when requesting their assistance in a seminar and webinar.

5. Subject Matter Committee Reports:

- a. Air – The Committee is continuing to prepare for the April 16, 2020 Air Conference at MMA and discussed the division of costs and expenses associated with the event.
- b. Hazardous Substances and Brownfield - Steps will be made to schedule a March Webinar (or later) on the availability of insurance for Brownfield.
- c. Natural Resources, Energy and Sustainability Committee is considering a Webinar depending on the scheduling of a Summer Section event.
- d. Great Lakes and Inland Waters – This Committee is looking for speakers for a PFAS Seminar.
- e. Environmental Litigation – No report was discussed.

6. Young Lawyers Ad Hoc Committee:

Increasing young lawyers involvement in the Section was discussed. Allison Collins (Chair) has set up an event for young attorneys and law students. There will be a panel of environmental attorneys discussing their specialization and practice. Lunch will be provided at Foster Swift's Lansing office, with a Happy Hour after the presentation. An email blast and announcements will be sent to potential attendees.

7. Other Meeting Topics:

- a. 2019 /2020 – Budget Review. Enright reported that there have been some changes to characterizations and line item entries. Enright is in discussions with the State Bar to confirm how to assign certain revenues, specifically the Air Seminar. An additional \$5,000 has been assigned to expenses for increasing young attorneys'

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participation in the committee. Enright indicated that the proposed budget allows for one year's worth of expenses and some excess for unanticipated expenses. Helminski moved to approve the budget and allow for changes to the entries. It was passed by the Council.

- b. Desk Book – The Council discussed the process associated with the posting of the Desk Book list. Martorano will contact ICLE to determine whether they will host or assist in posting the Desk Book into their system. The Council discussed the limitations with the Desk Book.
- c. Summer Conference – The Committee generally assessed going back to the Bengal Center and combining it with a Council Meeting. This location allows for a tour and discussion of habitat restoration and wetland protection. Parks will contact the Bengal Center to confirm availability and then follow up with Schebor (Chair Program Committee).
- d. Website and Law Journal – Collins indicated that there is interest in a journal issue dedicated to sustainability, green infrastructure and related topics. Saul Mikalonis reached out to Collins to write on green energy issues. Articles to be included in this issue would be due in February 2021. The Journal would be published in March. Participants were asked to contact Amanda Collins if they have a topic or they would like to contribute. Steps will be taken to improve the Section's website and update the site to include all future events.

## 8. Elections on Nominations:

The Council discussed the need for a nominating committee, which will be considered at the next Council Meeting.

## 9. Open discussion:

Council members discussed the status of activity and changes at the EGLE.

Next meeting to be scheduled for March 12, 2020 at Foster Swift's Lansing offices.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.